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Public Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sep 2, 2005

INFORMATION ON HURRICANE KATRINA

Many Installation Management Agency – Europe employees and family members have inquired on how they can help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Many employees also have family members in the disaster sites they have been unable to reach.

Following is some useful information.

Reaching loved ones

The American Red Cross has issued a minimize on Disaster Welfare Inquiries at this time. This is normal immediately after a disaster of this magnitude, as all available disaster workers are being utilized to assist the immediate needs of those seeking shelter and assisting with the rescue efforts. They simply do not have the capability at present to look for loved ones. The local Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services stations can take the names and phone numbers of those wishing to find out about their family members' status, so that when the minimize is lifted, the Red Cross can then initiate a message. Here in Europe, people should call the local Red Cross on your installation and give them the required information.

The Red Cross also encourages people to continue to try to reach your loved ones on your own or designate a family member closest to the disaster sites to try to contact them.

In addition, the press release at the following web link

http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_314_4494,00.html describes the current state of affairs in the area affected by Katrina and provides suggestions for people in the affected area to advise family of their whereabouts and welfare. You are also encouraged to use the suggestions in the press release to learn about your families in the affected area.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Many people want to know how to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The first thing people often think of is collecting up canned foods and clothes. While well intended, there is no infrastructure in the area to receive these items. The best way to help victims is donations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a website provided below that lists a host of organizations accepting monetary donations. These organizations normally use the funds locally, which help businesses in the area and gets needed supplies to the victims much quicker.

http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/resources_katrina.shtm

AKO has also come out with a Hurricane Katrina website.

COMMUNITY FUND RAISERS

Other fund raising activities on military installations are the decision of the commander. Individuals cannot go door-to-door to raise funds without the permission of the ASG or BSB Commander.

The IMA - Europe family will continue to keep the victims and survivors of Hurricane Katrina in our thoughts and prayers.